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McCone confirmation

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Clippings

McCone Picks Career Man To Head C. I. A. Planning

**Helms, Intelligence Expert, to Succeed
Bissell, Who Directed Cuba Invasion—
Agency's No. 2 Post Still Open**

By JOHN D. MORRIS

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17—John A. McCone, the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has begun to rebuild the agency's high command by putting a career intelligence man in charge of covert operations.

He has chosen Richard M. Helms, an assistant director, to succeed Richard M. Bissell as deputy director for plans.

Mr. Bissell's resignation, long rumored, and the prospective appointment of Mr. Helms were affirmed today by a C. I. A. spokesman. Mr. Bissell was in charge of the ill-starred invasion of Cuba last spring.

A former professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr. Bissell will leave the Federal service and take a job with what he described as a "semi-private" organization. He declined to elaborate on the nature of the organization or to specify his new duties. The informa-

tion is expected to be made public in an announcement soon.

The C. I. A. post that he is vacating and that Mr. Helms is taking over ranks third in the agency's hierarchy, along with that of deputy director for (overt) intelligence.

The No. 2 job—deputy director—has been vacant since the retirement Jan. 31 of Air Force Gen. C. P. Cabell. Mr. McCone is expected to pick another military man as his successor. Robert Armory will continue as deputy director for intelligence.

Both Mr. Bissell and Allen W. Dulles, then C. I. A. director, were reported to have submitted their resignations shortly after the failure of the Cuban invasion last April.

The acceptance of Mr. Dulles' resignation was delayed until Sept. 27 and of Mr. Bissell's until some months later. The

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C. I. A. TO REPLACE PLANNING CHIEF

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apparent aim of the delays was to manifest that neither was leaving under duress because of the Cuban affair.

Mr. Bissell was long associated with the academic community before joining the C. I. A. under Mr. Dulles. He was well acquainted with some of the intellectuals brought to the White House when President Kennedy took office.

A highly articulate man, he is said to have convinced those Presidential associates that the Cuban expedition was feasible. They, in turn, are credited with having helped to convince the President.

Favors a Fresh Start

While Mr. McCone obviously wants to avoid the impression that Mr. Bissell is being blamed for the Cuban failure, he nevertheless seems to believe that a fresh start should be made in the delicate field of covert operations.

Mr. Helms, now 48 years old, joined the United States Intelligence Service in World War II. He served in the European Theatre with the Office of Strategic Services, a predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency.

He was born in St. Davids, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia, attended preparatory schools in New Jersey, Switzerland and

Germany and was graduated from Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.

In the Nineteen Thirties Mr. Helms was a correspondent for The United Press, now United Press International, in London and Berlin.

Later he joined the Scripps-Howard newspaper organization. He was advertising manager of The Indianapolis Times at the start of World War II. He speaks several languages.

It is understood that he was not involved in the Cuban operation.